

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0002], [0025], [0044], [0046], [0047], [00049], [0057] and [0064] with the following amended paragraphs of like number:

--[0002] The complete disclosures of the following three copending, commonly-owned U.S. patent applications filed concurrently with the present application are hereby incorporated by reference into the present specification: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

[[_____]] 10/010,103 filed November 8, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,708,936 (Attorney Reference LAGP:108_US_; corresponds to German Application No. DE 200 19 109.8 filed November 12, 2000); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 filed November 8, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274 (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000); and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/007,168 filed November 8, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,960 (Attorney Reference LAGP:110_US_, corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 107.1 filed November 12, 2000).

[0025] A preferred embodiment of the invention results from its being considered together with the U.S. Patent Applications [[_____]] 10/010,103 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,708,936), [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274), and [[_____]] 10/007,168 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,960) filed on the same date and referenced above, which count as lying within the scope of the disclosure of this application and which, for the purpose of subsequent combination of at least two of these applications for foreign applications, can be considered together. The details of a counterbalancing transmission, a cable safeguard and a weight-change measurement, specified in the aforementioned patent application, can be taken directly from these applications for the purpose of combination with the teaching of the present application.

[0044] Figure 4 reveals a design without a balance arm 22. In the case of this design, an arm 3 which is rigidly connected to the support arm 2 takes over the balancing function – as in the case of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application

No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000). Provided parallel to said arm 3 is an arm 4a, which has a spindle 19a. Articulated on the two arms 3 and 4a is a connecting arm 5a, which can be adjusted in terms of its height by means of the spindle 19a. Connected to the connecting arm 5a is a cable pull 24c, which is led around a deflecting roller 26c and bears the balance weight AGb at its other end. The roller 26c can, if required, likewise be of two-part design, corresponding to the illustration in Figure 3a, and can have a step-down or step-up function.

[0046] Figure 6 corresponds to the design according to the aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000). As distinct from the design of the load-equalizing unit 18 in the aforementioned application, the corresponding unit 18a in the present case is constructed from the cable pull 24c, the deflecting roller 26c and the balance weight AGb. In the event of displacement of the spindle 19a, there is a displacement of the height of the connecting arm 5a on the cheek of a carriage 7, which can be displaced laterally relative to the basic body 12. Via the cable pull 24c, which is connected to the carriage 7, the constant balancing force FA is applied to the carriage and therefore to the connecting arm 5a, which is associated with the corresponding step-up ratio for changes in weight at the load G merely as a result of its distance from the basic body 12.

[0047] As already described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000), G indicates the load or the surgical microscope which is held at the distal end of a pivotable parallelogram carrier 2. The upper arm of the parallelogram carrier 2 is rigidly connected to an arm 3, which is connected by a further parallel arm 4 and a connecting arm 5 to a further parallelogram 6a.

[0049] The dashed line h_{\max} indicates the outermost position of the connecting arm 5a, at which there is the greatest lever-arm step-up ratio, that is to say at which G can assume the greatest

load. In addition, Figure 4 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000) reveals how, during the pivoting operation of the parallelogram carrier 2, the geometry of the parallelogram 6a changes, which results in an automatic compensation effect (cosine compensation) in the balancing forces.

[0057] The design of Figure 7 also falls under the protective cover of Claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000). Various reference symbols in Figure 7 have the following correspondences: the balance arm 22b corresponds approximately to the arm 3 from Figure 6.

[0064] In the present invention, reference is always made to a balance weight. Given knowledge of the invention, those skilled in the art will understand that, instead of the balance weight, other balancing force-producing measures, such as tension springs or the like, can also be provided without leaving the essence of the invention. In this case, however, care must be taken that these tension springs or the like produce a constant balancing force. In this point, the invention also differs significantly from the known prior art US 5253832. The novel inventive design of the applicant according to U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

[[_____]] 10/008,285 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,274) (Attorney Reference LAGP:109_US_; corresponds to German Application No. 200 19 106.3 filed November 12, 2000) provides an example of such a force-compensated solution with a spring.--